



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6715

LCO No. 3676

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There is established and created an account to
2 be known as the "small municipalities contaminated properties
3 remediation account". The small municipalities contaminated
4 properties remediation account shall be an account of the
5 Environmental Quality Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of the
6 general statutes, ____ per cent of any revenue collected in accordance
7 with sections 22a-430, 22a-449 and 22a-454 to 22a-454c, inclusive, of the
8 general statutes shall be deposited in the Environmental Quality Fund
9 and credited to the small municipalities contaminated properties
10 remediation account. Any balance remaining in said account at the end
11 of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in said account for the fiscal
12 year next succeeding.

13 (b) The account shall be used by the Commissioner of
14 Environmental Protection for loans to municipalities with a population
15 less than thirty thousand for remediation of sites on the hazardous
16 waste disposal site inventory maintained by the Commissioner of

17 Environmental Protection under section 22a-133c of the general
18 statutes. Payments from the account shall be made by the Treasurer
19 upon authorization of the commissioner. A loan made under this
20 section shall be without interest. Each such loan shall be repaid in
21 monthly installments and payments shall be deposited in the account.

22 (c) On or before the second Wednesday after the convening of each
23 regular session of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of
24 Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the joint standing
25 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
26 relating to the environment which sets forth, for the year ending the
27 preceding June thirtieth, the amount of income to and the expenditures
28 from the account and such other information as may be available to the
29 commissioner concerning the status of the account for the year covered
30 by the report and for future fiscal years.

31 Sec. 2. (NEW) Notwithstanding any provision of the general
32 statutes, a municipality that acquires title to real estate by
33 condemnation under any provision of the general statutes shall not be
34 liable for any assessment, fine or other costs imposed by the state for
35 any spill upon such real estate.

36 Sec. 3. Section 32-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

38 (a) As used in this section:

39 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and
40 Community Development.

41 (2) "Public investment communities" shall have the same meaning
42 as "public investment communities", as defined in section 7-545.

43 (b) The legislative bodies of three or more contiguous
44 municipalities, each of which is a public investment community and
45 has a population of not more than sixty thousand, and at least fifty per
46 cent of which municipalities are located along the same interstate

47 highway, limited access state highway or intersecting interstate or
48 limited access state highways, may, with the approval of the
49 commissioner, designate [industrial districts in] such municipalities as
50 an enterprise corridor zone. A municipality that is adjacent to a
51 municipality in an enterprise corridor zone may submit an application
52 to the commissioner requesting to be included in such designation.

53 (c) Municipalities seeking the approval of the commissioner for such
54 designation shall execute an intermunicipal agreement specifying how
55 they would cooperatively share in the marketing, promotion and
56 development of the [industrial districts that would comprise the]
57 enterprise corridor zones, and shall file with the commissioner a
58 preliminary application which includes such executed agreement. Not
59 later than sixty days after receipt of such preliminary application, the
60 commissioner shall indicate to the municipalities, in writing, any
61 recommendations for improving the municipalities' application. Not
62 later than sixty days after receipt of the commissioner's written
63 response, the municipalities shall file a final application with the
64 commissioner.

65 (d) The commissioner shall approve the designation of at least two
66 [areas as] enterprise corridor zones. The commissioner may remove
67 the designation of any [area he has approved as an] enterprise corridor
68 zone if such [area] enterprise corridor zone no longer meets the criteria
69 for such designation, provided no such designation shall be removed
70 less than ten years from the date of approval of such zone.

71 (e) Businesses located within an enterprise corridor zone shall be
72 entitled to the same benefits, subject to the same conditions, under the
73 general statutes for which businesses located in an enterprise zone
74 qualify. As used in this section, businesses shall be deemed to include
75 commercial property and support enterprises.

76 (f) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
77 provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of this section.

78 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a dedicated program for smaller municipalities to correct environmental blight and expand their economic base.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]